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REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful review of the application as set forth in the outstanding office action. Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-21, 29-30 and 34-36 have been allowed.

Claims 24 and 32 stand as objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 24 and 32 have been rewritten in independent form, and are in condition for allowance.

Claims Rejections - 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 9-10, 22-23, 25-26, 28, 31 and 33 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Hayward et al. ("Hayward"). The rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established, and the applied reference does not teach or suggest the claimed subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that "setting parameters for ordering print media, said parameters including a confidence level," and "correlating one or more of the parameters including said confidence level with the usage distribution to determine a usage tolerance." Since Hayward does not each or suggest setting a confidence level, or correlating one or more of the parameters including the confidence level with the usage distribution to determine a usage tolerance, Hayward does not teach or suggest the subject matter of Claim 1. The rejection of Claim 1 as well as the claims depending therefrom should be withdrawn.

Claim 22 is drawn to a method, in a printing system having consumable print media and a cartridge with consumable marking agent, comprising:

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detecting when a trigger event occurs within the cartridge; and
placing an order for additional print media when the trigger event is
detected.

The Examiner alleges that Hayward describes this method as follows:

printing system (column 9: lines 33-42 and Figure 8) having a consumable
print media (column 9, line 42, paper) and a cartridge with consumable marking
agent (column 9, lines 41-41, toner, and toner cartridge);

detecting when a trigger event occurs within the cartridge (column 8: lines
26-31);

and placing an order for additional print media when the trigger event is
detected (Column 9: lines 21-26, electronic order is automatically initiated for a
replacement consumable component).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's recitation of the
teachings of Hayward. Hayward does not teach, for example, that an order for
additional print media is placed when a trigger event occurs within the cartridge.
Instead, Hayward teaches that the marking apparatus or remote device may
interrogate the consumable component 11 for information, and then process and
communicate such information to another remote device or server. Hayward
states that the information may be communicated electronically to a remote
device 50 regarding the condition of the consumable component 11 and
automatically initiate an electronic order for a replacement of the consumable
component 11. See, Hayward, 9:12-42.

Hayward teaches that the condition of the consumable component 11
causes an order for replacement of the consumable component. Hayward does
not teach or suggest that a trigger event occurring within a cartridge with
consumable marking agent causes the placement of an order for additional print
media. At most, Hayward suggests that a threshold condition in the toner
cartridge would trigger a replacement order for a toner cartridge. A prima facie
case of obviousness has not been established with respect to Claim 22 or the
claims depending therefrom. The dependent claims further distinguish from
Hayward. The rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

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Similar considerations apply to Claim 31, which is drawn to a printer comprising:

- a cartridge containing a consumable marking agent;
- a detector to sense a level of marking agent within the cartridge;
- a supply of consumable print media; and
- a controller configured to place an order for additional print media when the detector senses a low level of marking agent.

For reasons discussed above, Hayward does not teach or suggest a controller as recited in Claim 31, and a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

Claim 33 is drawn to a computer coupled to a print device, the print device comprising a supply of consumable print media, a consumable marking agent, and a detector to sense a level of the marking agent, the computer comprising:

a printer controller configured to place an order for additional print media when the detector senses a low level of marking agent.

For reasons discussed above, Hayward does not teach or suggest a printer controller configured in the manner recited in Claim 33. A prima facie case of obviousness has not been established. The rejection should be withdrawn.

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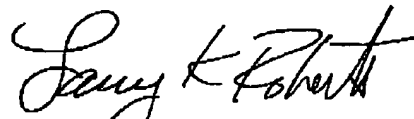
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Conclusion:

The outstanding objections and rejections have been addressed, and the application is in condition for allowance. Such favorable reconsideration is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Larry K. Roberts
Registration No. 28,464

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Law Offices of Larry K. Roberts, Inc.
P.O. Box 8569
Newport Beach, CA 92658-8569
Telephone (949) 640-6200
Facsimile (949) 640-1206